



EMS VEHICLE MARKINGS CLARIFICATION

12 VAC 5-31-770. Ground EMS vehicle markings.

A. The vehicle body of a nontransport response vehicle, a ground ambulance or a neonatal ambulance must be marked with a reflective horizontal band permanently affixed to the sides and rear of the vehicle body. This horizontal reflective band must be of a material approved for exterior use, a minimum of four inches continuous in height.

B. The Star of Life emblem may appear on an EMS vehicle that conforms to the appropriate U.S. Department of Transportation specifications for the type and class of vehicle concerned. If used on any ground ambulance or neonatal ambulance, the emblem (14-inch size minimum) must appear on both sides of the EMS vehicle.

C. The following must appear in permanently affixed lettering that is a minimum of three inches in height and of a color that contrasts with the surrounding vehicle background. Lettering must comply with the restrictions and specifications listed in these regulations.

1. Nontransport response vehicle. The name of the EMS agency that the vehicle is permitted to shall appear on both sides of the vehicle body in reflective lettering.

Exception: A designated emergency response agency must have the approval of the Office of EMS for a vehicle to display an alternate name.

2. Ground ambulance:

- a. The name of the EMS agency that the vehicle is permitted to must appear on both sides of the vehicle body in reflective lettering.

Exception: A designated emergency response agency must have the approval of the Office of EMS for a vehicle to display an alternate name.

b. The word "AMBULANCE" in reverse on the vehicle hood or bug deflector.

c. The word "AMBULANCE" on or above rear doors.

3. Neonatal Ambulance:

a. The name of the EMS agency to which the vehicle is permitted must appear on both sides of the vehicle body in reflective lettering.

b. "NEONATAL CARE UNIT" or other similar designation, approved by the Office of EMS, must appear on both sides of the vehicle body.

12 VAC 5-31-780. Air Ambulance markings.

A. On a primary air ambulance, the following must appear in permanently affixed lettering that is a minimum of three inches in height and of a color that contrasts with its surrounding background. Lettering must comply with the restrictions and specifications listed in these regulations.

1. The name of the EMS agency that the aircraft is permitted to must appear on both sides of the aircraft body. This lettering may appear as part of an organization logo or emblem as long as the agency name appears in letters of the required height.

Exception: A Designated Emergency Response Agency must have the approval of the Office of EMS for a vehicle to display an alternate name.

2. Agency or FAA assigned unit/vehicle identification number must appear on both sides of the aircraft.

B. The Star of Life emblem may appear on an air ambulance. If used, the emblem (14-inch size minimum) shall appear on both sides, and/or front and rear of the air ambulance.

12 VAC 5-31-790. EMS vehicle letter restrictions and specifications.

A. The following specifications apply to an EMS vehicle: the EMS agency name must appear in lettering larger than any optional lettering on an EMS vehicle, other than "Ambulance," the unit identification number or any lettering on the roof. Optional lettering, logos or emblems may not appear on an EMS vehicle in a manner that interferes with the public's ability to readily identify the EMS agency to which the EMS vehicle is permitted.

1. Additional lettering, logos or emblems must not advertise or imply a specified patient care level (i.e., Advanced Life Support Unit) unless the EMS vehicle is so equipped at all times.
 2. The terms "Paramedic" or "Paramedical" may only be used when the EMS vehicle is both equipped and staffed by a state certified EMT-Paramedic at all times.
- B. A nontransport response vehicle with a primary purpose as a fire apparatus or law-enforcement vehicle is not required to comply with the specifications for vehicle marking and lettering, provided the vehicle is appropriately marked and lettered to identify it as an authorized emergency vehicle.
- C. An unmarked vehicle operated by an EMS agency is not eligible for issuance of an EMS vehicle permit except a vehicle used and operated by law-enforcement personnel.